

January/February 2013

# Eastern Express

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System SSN 1064-3486  
Serving Burt, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington Counties in Nebraska

## In the Interim

by Gail Formanack

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Library System is committed to providing ongoing support for member libraries while searching for a new director. At its January meeting, the Board appointed me as volunteer interim director. I will be available in the office for consultation and oversight of ongoing continuing education programs. I plan to be in the office Tuesday mornings, and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

For those who don't know me, I am beginning my second term on the Eastern Library System board and am currently serving as secretary. I retired in August from the Omaha Public Schools where I was supervisor of the library program and then director of secondary education, and my MLS is from the University of Iowa.

I have always believed in being involved in our great library profession and served as president of NEMA, now the Nebraska School Librarians Association, and on the board of directors of the American Association of School Librarians. In retirement, I continue to be involved on the boards of ELS and NSLA.

I welcome you to contact me at the Eastern Library System office or by e-mail ([tjformanack@cox.net](mailto:tjformanack@cox.net)) for any assistance you may need in the interim.

## Eastern Library System Director Search



The personnel policies of the Eastern Library System dictate that the selection committee for the system director position shall consist of the executive committee (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer). This committee has been meeting since early November to review the hiring policy, create a timeline of the process, and to write an updated job description and job posting.

The full board met January 18<sup>th</sup> and approved the process. The job will be posted on various free job listings starting the week of January 21<sup>st</sup>. A member of the Nebraska Library Commission will join the executive committee in reviewing candidate applications and selecting those to interview.

Interviews will take place in March with a recommendation to hire by late March or early April. The board plans to host an open house in April so people will have the chance to meet the new director.

See page 4 for the full job posting.

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Joyce Neujahr  
David Privett  
Gayle Roberts  
Rosa Schmidt  
John Seyfarth  
Jan Therien

# New ELS Assistant

Hello! My name is Brian Maass, and I am the new Assistant at ELS.

I hope to maintain the high level of service that everyone has come to expect from our office, and maybe expand our offerings where we can. If you have suggestions or requests, just let me know.



Photo by Lesley Knox Photography

For a quick introduction, you can check out my graphic resume at <http://re.vu/BrianMaass> or just keep reading here:

- ♦ I have a bachelor's degree in journalism from UNL, but I never worked as a journalist. I spent 15 years as a telecommunications engineer with AT&T Wireless and a couple equipment venders. I moved between Dallas and Atlanta, before returning to Nebraska.
- ♦ I had always been interested in libraries, so in 2008, I joined the Nebraska Library Association and attended the annual conferences to find out more about the profession. In 2009, I started at the Bellevue University Library circulation desk and left telecom behind.
- ♦ Finally, in 2010, I applied to Missouri's masters program. I am in my last semester now, taking Cataloging and doing my practicum at Creighton's Klutznick Law Library. I am interested in all types of libraries, but have been leaning toward the tech services side of special libraries and archives, particularly digitization and preservation.
- ♦ I have tried to stay involved in the profession, volunteering at the NLA/NSLA annual conferences, and helping on the Bellevue Public Library Growth Committee. I am currently President-elect of the Special Libraries Association's Nebraska Chapter.

I will be in the office 7:30am to 3pm on Monday, Thursday and Friday, and 7:30 to Noon on Wednesdays. For those that need to come by the office later in the day, I will work 1pm to 5pm on Tuesdays. There may be some exceptions to these times due to off-site meetings or workshops, so feel free to call or email to schedule specific times to stop in.

Come on by and introduce yourself!

## Letter from NLA/NSLA/MPLA Conference Stipend Recipient

Anneka Ramirez, Scribner Public Library

I was extremely pleased to be the Eastern Library System's recipient of the Biblionix 2012 conference stipend for the NLA/NSLA/MPLA Tri-conference. The stipend allowed me to cover some travel costs and all of the conference registration.

Among the most rewarding highlights of my experience was meeting new people and seeing old faces. I am always amazed by how friendly and inviting people are in Libraryland; it is a great comfort to someone like me who is still pretty new to the field.

On Thursday, I took the opportunity to acquaint myself with the Intellectual Freedom Committee (now Round Table), New Members Round Table, and the NLA Annual Meeting. These meetings allowed me to see the greater framework in which my little library exists. Being able to see the larger structure gave me a much stronger sense of community, support, and action. Because I will be starting MLIS courses in January, I chose to also attend the Library Student Panel Discussion. I met a couple future classmates and heard past students' stories which made me a little less nervous about going back to school.

My favorite workshop Friday was Sandra Wallick's Storytelling Tips and Techniques. Her presentation was so engaging; I wanted her to keep reading us stories! I learned a lot and wanted to immediately start planning story times for my library.

This was my first time attending the Tri-Conference and without the Biblionix Conference Stipend, I may have missed it altogether.



**February 8th**—ELS Board Meeting, 9:30 am—Baright Public Library, Ralston

**February 15th**—Public Library Annual Statistical Surveys Due. Contact John Felton at the Nebraska Library Commission (800-307-2665) for any questions.

**February 21st to 23rd** – Nebraska State Reading Conference in Kearney. See [www.nereads.org](http://www.nereads.org) for details.

**February 22nd** – RDA Practice Group

**February 22nd** – CLICK Meeting 9:30 am—Sump Memorial Library, Papillion.

**February 25th to March 22nd**— Basic Skills – Organization of Materials .  
<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/NBSCalendar.aspx>

**February 28, 2013**—Big Talk from Small Libraries. For details, go to:  
<http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/>

**March 8, 2013** - Sensory Friendly Storytime Workshop - 8am - 4:30 pm, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion. See page **XXXXX**

**March 14, 2013** - Last day to file E-rate form 471 for discounts on telecommunication services

**March 21, 2013** - NLA Paraprofessional Spring Meeting

**March 25th to April 5th**— Basic Skills – Leadership.

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/NBSCalendar.aspx>

**April 6, 2013**—School Librarian Day—UNO, Roskens Hall.

**April 12, 2013**—ELS Board Meeting, 9:30 am—North Bend Public Library

## 2012 Youth Grants for Excellence

Eleven public libraries and two regional library systems were awarded Youth Grants for Excellence on November 3, 2012, for a total of \$20,802. Recipients are:

- ♦ Bellevue Public Library, \$4,650 – “Dream 3D”
- ♦ Central City Public Library, \$2,661 – “Our AWE-some Library”
- ♦ Wilson Public Library, Cozad, \$563 – “The Perks of Book Trailers and Social Media in Promoting Youth Adult Books”
- ♦ Crawford Public Library, \$586 – “Pre-School Story Time”
- ♦ La Vista Public Library, \$1,917 – “Teen Media Club”
- ♦ Lexington Public Library, \$685 – “Family Night at the Library”
- ♦ Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City, \$600 – “Discover and Explore Activity Bags and Backpacks”
- ♦ Norfolk Public Library, \$2,000 – “Signing Lapsit and Signing Storytime Programs”
- ♦ Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, \$2,321 – “Serving Children with Special Needs through Sensory Friendly Storytimes”
- ♦ Ponca Carnegie Library, \$1,909 – “What is a Service Dog? It Might Surprise You!”
- ♦ Lied Randolph Public Library, \$1,260 – “On the Road to Reading...”
- ♦ Eastern Library System, \$750 – “Kids Still Need Books”
- ♦ Eastern Library System & Southeast Library System, \$900 – Youth Services Retreat

# Job Posting:

## Director, Nebraska Eastern Library System

The Nebraska Eastern Library System (ELS) seeks a creative, energetic individual with a strong public service orientation. Enthusiasm, flexibility, and self-motivation are essential. A dynamic leader is needed with a strong vision of the future of libraries who will be passionate about furthering the impact of the ELS libraries and librarians. We are looking for a Director who will support and lead service-oriented, user-focused, and collegial systems working collaboratively with each other and their communities to promote and advance the impact of libraries in the state of Nebraska. The Director works closely with the Nebraska Library Commission and other system Directors. S/he should have proven successes in supervision, budget management and staff development as well as familiarity with developing and assessing library educational programs. Our successful candidate will embrace emerging twenty-first century tools and technologies and will have the ability to adapt to a wide variety of local and consortia procedures and projects. The ELS Director will supervise one administrative assistant working approximately 35 hours/week.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

Master's Degree from an ALA-accredited institution and significant experience in all areas of library operations. A track record of progressively more responsible administrative experience, preferably with a breadth of knowledge in various types of libraries (public, academic, school, and special) with an emphasis on visioning, budget management, and staff development. Strong interpersonal, communication and leadership skills. Working knowledge of laws and policies relevant to various libraries. Demonstrated knowledge of information technology as it relates to libraries and the ability to effectively communicate with technologists, administration, and library staff about technology. Valid driver's license with a clean driving record.

Essential knowledge, skills and abilities include: knowledge of contemporary best practices for libraries; knowledge of budget preparation, maintenance and forecasting; knowledge of electronic resources and technology; excellent interpersonal and communication/listening skills; collaboration and consensus building skills; and skill in leading a diverse team of library professionals in setting and achieving goals.

### PREFERRED:

Three to five years of relevant administrative management and programming experience in a combination of libraries. Public speaking and successful grant writing and fund raising experience; knowledge of public organizations and administrative practices; ability to plan and coordinate the work of others and to work well with public officials and community organizations; commitment to public service; proven success of innovation in modern library operations.

### SALARY:

\$48,000 - \$52,000/yr. DOQ, plus negotiable benefits.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Applicants must submit electronic application materials online to [elsdir@cox.net](mailto:elsdir@cox.net)

Applications should include: letter of application, resume, statement of philosophy of librarianship and names, email addresses, and telephone numbers of three professional references. Review of applicants begins February 22, 2013. Questions can be directed to [elsdir@cox.net](mailto:elsdir@cox.net)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Public Libraries Invited to Apply for Internship Grants

**Application deadline: Feb. 15, 2013**

**Award amount: \$500 – \$1,000**

The Nebraska Library Commission's Cultivating Rural Librarians' Technology Skills program offers support for internships through grants to accredited public libraries. This program is offered in partnership with the Nebraska Library Association and funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

### So, what can your library do with the internship program?

- ♦ Share your enthusiasm for library education and the library profession
- ♦ Expand your programming
- ♦ Bring in fresh faces
- ♦ Show interns what happens behind-the-scenes
- ♦ Partner with other library types to show the variety of work settings

A library may provide one 100-hour internship during the summer months that might last eight weeks, or two 50-hour internships during the school year that might last ten weeks, depending on the needs of the library and the internship candidates.

Library grantees will recruit, select, and hire their interns. Interns provide valuable assistance with library service activities and local library programming. Library staff help introduce interns to the joys of library service careers. Partnership projects involving collaboration between a public library and another type of library will be given special consideration.

NLC staff are available by phone and through e-mail to discuss general issues relating to the internship grant program. More information is available on the *Now Hiring @ Your Library®* website, at <http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/Internships.asp>

## School Librarians' Day Scheduled for April 6



The Eastern Library System has collaborated with Dr. Becky Pasco at UNO for several years to offer a day of top rate continuing education sessions geared for school librarians. This

year's presenters and program topics are still being finalized, but mark your calendars now and watch for more information in the near future.

## Big Talk from Small Libraries

Big Talk from Small Libraries returns Feb 28, 2013 from 8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Central Time).

This **free** one-day online conference is aimed at librarians from small libraries; the smaller the better. Each speaker will be from a small library or directly work with small libraries. Topics will range from technology to programming to new roles for the library.

This conference is organized and hosted by Michael Sauers, Laura Johnson, and Christa Burns of the Nebraska Library Commission and is co-sponsored by the Association for Small & Rural Libraries.

For details, see:

<http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/>

## SYSTEM NEWS

### Sump Memorial Library, Presenters Fair

With ten presenters and dozens of librarians attending, the 2013 Presenters Fair at Sump Memorial Library on January 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2pm was a great success. Librarians were not only able to speak with and book potential SRP presenters, but they were also able to witness parts of their performances. Presenters such as Kip from Wildlife Encounters and Austin from the Nebraska Natural Resources District wowed audiences with their animal friends and wide knowledge of local and exotic wildlife, while The String Beans, a children's band from Lincoln, entertained us with their music.

Sponsored by Eastern Library Systems, and free for librarians, this event provided a unique opportunity for presenters and librarians to meet face to face and form new connections while planning and broadening their summer reading programs.

Door prizes were won by:

Joni Wilder, Omaha Public Library, won a restaurant gift card donated by Jeff Quinn ([www.jeffquinnmagic.com](http://www.jeffquinnmagic.com))

Jean Slowinski, Gretna Public Library, won a bag of Mad Science projects, donated by Jim Birkel ([www.madscience.org/centraliowa](http://www.madscience.org/centraliowa)).

Five librarians won children's books from the Eastern Library System.



Animal introductions at the Presenter's Fair



Who is entertaining who?

### New Librarians at Creighton University

Rose Wilson is the newest Reference Librarian at the Health Sciences Library. Rose earned her Bachelor of Arts in English at Michigan State University, and her Masters of Library and Information Science at Wayne State University in Detroit. She was most recently a Reference Librarian at Baker College of Muskegon, Michigan.

Becky Wymer comes to Creighton as the new Systems Librarian. A graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, Masters of Arts, Library Science program, she previously worked at UNO and Bellevue University. She is married with three children.

Welcome Rose and Becky!



Rose Wilson



Becky Wymer

## *In Other News*

### **YALSA Teen Space Guidelines**

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has released Teen Space Guidelines to provide an outline for libraries looking to provide an ideal space for its teenage patrons. The document offers suggestions in nine areas, starting with getting teen input up front for any plans.

The guidelines include a focus on technology and virtual teen spaces, and address resources for use on a low budget, such as free social media tools. As Lauren Barack noted in *School Library Journal's* July issue, "Upgrades don't necessarily require big bucks to make libraries relevant to young users." The full YALSA document is available at: [www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/teenspaces](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/teenspaces)

Source: Barack, L. (2012, July). Putting tech into teen spaces: YALSA guidelines address media literacy, low-cost options for serving kids. *School Library Journal*. p. 10.

### **Nebraska Book Festival**

The Nebraska Center for the Book is a sponsor of the Nebraska Book Festival April 5 & 6, 2013 at UNO's Thompson Alumni Center. The keynote speaker is Kurt Andersen, author of *True Believers* (2012), *Heyday* (2007), and *Turn of the Century* (1999). The event will also include poets Art Homer, Stacey Waite and Fred Zydek, and authors Lisa Knopp and Joy Castro (*Hell or High Water: A Novel*).

John Price will be reading along with UNO creative non-fiction students and Editor Andrew Jewell will discuss his work on the letters of Willa Cather. For more information, check out the Nebraska Book Festival website at: <http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov/> or the Nebraska Center for the Book at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/index.asp>



### **Coming Soon to Omaha**

Word must be getting out about Nebraska's friendly librarians. Two conferences will be held in Omaha this year.

The Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) Annual Conference will be September 25-28, 2013 at the Doubletree in Downtown Omaha. Session proposals are being accepted through Feb 17. For more details, see: <http://arsl.info/category/conference2/>

The Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL) will hold their annual meeting October 17-19, 2013 at the Embassy Suites in the Old Market.

Watch future issues for more details on these great learning and networking opportunities.

### **Let's Build Nebraska**

Libraries are encouraged to check out Let's Build Nebraska, a free web resource geared toward building "Strong, viable nonprofit and other organizations to benefit Nebraska communities".

Resources include information on boards, volunteer management, and marketing. There are also grant opportunities and technology links. Visit: <http://www.letsbuildnebraska.org/>



## Eastern Library System Board Minutes December 14, 2012 Eastern Library System Office

Present: Joyce Neujahr, Gayle Roberts, Jan Therien, Marcia Jussel, Scott Berryman, Tammy Lorenz, John Seyfarth, David Privett, Rosa Schmidt, Francine Canfield, Gail Formanack. Alternates: Robin Bernstein, Lupe Mier. Ex-Officio: Kathy Tooker, Nancy Meyer. Guests: Richard Miller, Brian Maass

President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. Board members and alternates introduced themselves. A motion to revise the agenda by moving the brainstorming session to the top of the agenda was approved. Canfield moved and Neujahr seconded that the board move to executive session to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried. There was a motion to end the executive session 9:58. Motion carried.

Seyfarth moved and Neujahr seconded the approval of the October 12, 2012, board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The August and September 2012 treasurer's reports were reviewed. The reports were placed on file for audit.

Correspondence: Kathy Tooker indicated there was no correspondence.

Director's Report: See written report. There was further discussion on a statement by the Nebraska Library Commission regarding the possibility of future financial difficulties. It was acknowledged that there may not be enough funding to sustain six systems in the future.

### Committee Reports:

- ♦ Fundraising: Gail reported that the recent projects selling book lover's calendars, Younker's community day booklets, and the Barnes and Noble book fair yielded over \$1,600. The fundraising goal for this fiscal year has been met.
- ♦ Continuing Education: Joyce reported on several recent events including the summer reading program training and the colloquium.
- ♦ Advocacy: Francine, legislative chair for NLA, discussed the need for participation in the Advocacy Day in Lincoln scheduled for January 30. The NLC budget request of \$1.2 million includes funds to support the regional systems, expansion of e-book availability, and extension of database use to school libraries.

### Old Business:

Brian Maass was introduced as the new administrative assistant. He requested hours through May that will allow him to meet his educational obligations. The requested hours are 7:30 – 3:00 Monday, Thursday, Friday; 1:00 – 5:00 Tuesday; and 7:30 – 12:30 Wednesday. Seyfarth moved and Roberts seconded to approve the schedule. Mo-

tion carried.

Richard Miller presented a written report from the Nebraska Library Commission. One highlight is that ELS received a Youth Grants for Excellence award.

### New Business:

- ♦ An e-mail vote was conducted between meetings to hire Brian Maass as the new administrative assistant. The e-mail vote was confirmed by a vote of the board. The signed contract was passed around.
- ♦ Scott discussed the need for a policy which will provide a framework for how to handle situations where a board member may have a conflict of interest. A sample policy will be sent to all board members for review prior to discussion and a vote at a future meeting.
- ♦ Members of the Ad Hoc Finance Committee reported on several items for the board's consideration. If two ELS employees are interested in health benefits, it is possible for the board to enter an agreement with a group of non-profits for the purpose of obtaining health insurance. The current office lease ends May 21st so a decision will need to be made regarding office space after the new management notifies the organization about rent costs. All bank accounts must be closed and reopened to give the new employees access. The car lease expires June 2014. Budget projections and e-rate were discussed as well as the costs of phone/data service. Canfield moved, Therien seconded, to give Kathy Tooker the 5 year old computer. Motion passed.
- ♦ Scott discussed the current car lease. In June 2012, the system began a two year lease for a Toyota Corolla. The lease has been pre-paid along with routine maintenance and insurance. Options discussed were to store the car or buy out the lease and sell the car. The board voted to have Scott store the car until other action is taken.
- ♦ Minutes of the special meeting held by the executive board to discuss the search process were distributed and discussed. Until a new director is hired, it was suggested the board meet on a monthly basis. It was decided that the entire board will meet again on January 18, 2013 at the ELS office. Board members are to contact Brian at the ELS office if unable to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

### Next Meeting:

January 18 at the ELS system office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Formanack, Secretary





# **Free, Full-day Workshop! Sensory Friendly Storytimes: Serving Children with Special Needs**

**Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, NE**

**Friday, March 8 8:00am - 4:30pm**

**E-mail only registration by March 4, 2013  
[cathytmcmahon@gmail.com](mailto:cathytmcmahon@gmail.com)**

Families of children with special needs may be reluctant to attend traditional storytimes. Offering a Sensory Friendly Storytime is a powerful way of including ALL families in your programming. Learn how to facilitate a Sensory Friendly Storytime.

- Be able to recognize prevalence, symptoms, and techniques used for common childhood diagnoses.
- Gain a basic knowledge of characteristics of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down syndrome and developmental delays and receive simple tips for working with young children with special needs.
- Recognize common behavioral disorders in young children and their symptoms and how to address these behaviors as they occur in storytime.
- Learn to interact with parents and caregivers of children with special needs.
- Learn how to use manipulatives and external supports (cubes, reading cushions, fidgets) for children attending a Sensory Friendly Storytime.

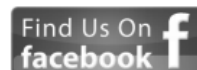
**Bring your lunch or visit Papillion's local restaurants!**

**This project was supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.**



222 N. Jefferson St  
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[www.sumplibrary.org](http://www.sumplibrary.org)



## What the Nebraska Library Commission's 2013-2015 budget request means to Nebraska Residents

Prepared by Francine Canfield, NLA Advocacy Chair

1. **eReads:** **NEW** direct state funding for eBooks and eAudios for public libraries. Separate funds from the current Direct State Aid to public libraries. The request is for \$925,000 or \$.50 per person.
1. **Regional Library Systems:** An additional \$15,000 per system for the next two years; a total of \$90,000.
2. **NebraskAccess:** \$25,461 for the price increase for licensing the current databases. \$141,085 for access to eLibrary or similar database for public and private schools.

### What the NLA Advocacy Committee is doing:

1. Developing a campaign to gain support and win passage in the Unicameral in 2013.
2. Working with our lobbyist to garner support from the Nebraska League of Municipalities and Nebraska County Managers.

### What you can do to support:

1. Read the emails from NLA about eReads
2. Identify eBooks and eAudio and other downloadable products as part of your strategic plan to serve your community. 56,197 Nebraskans have signed on to Overdrive since 2005!
3. Use the campaign materials and logo to tell a consistent message.
4. Get your community's support.
5. Talk to your senator. Friend them on Facebook.
6. **Be patient, persistent, and consistent in the NLA message to our communities and legislature.**

